



J. TYLER McCaULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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September 28, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – BOYS
REPUBLIC, POMONA RESIDENCE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Pomona Residence (Group Home or Agency) operated by Boys Republic. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

The Group Home is a ten-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 14-18 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County Probation children, one Orange County child, one Alameda County Probation child, one Contra Costa County Probation child, one San Luis Obispo County Probation child, and one Santa Clara County Probation child.

Pomona Residence Group Home is located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Group Home has deficient areas that need to be addressed.

The Group Home needs to clean the dirty window blinds in the dining room and kitchen; clean the deep fryer on the counter; clean the stove and oven; clean the downstairs bathroom tub, shower door, tile, walls and mirror; develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans; obtain current authorizations for the administration of psychotropic medication; and provide children with opportunities to maintain life books/photo albums.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Max Scott, Executive Director, Boys Republic
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Boys Republic
Pomona Residence
733 N. Garey Avenue
Pomona, California 91767
Phone: (909) 622-3556
License Number: 191500098
Rate Classification Level: 5**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

The Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, there are a few areas in need of improvement. The dining room and kitchen window blinds are dirty. In the kitchen; the deep fryer on the counter, the oven, and the stove are dirty. In the children's bathroom; the bathtub, shower door, tile, wall, and mirror are dirty.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Boys Republic management:

- a. Clean the window blinds in the dining room and kitchen.**
- b. Clean the deep fryer on the kitchen counter.**
- c. Clean the stove and the oven in the kitchen.**

- d. Clean the bath tub, shower door, tile, wall, and mirror in the children's downstairs bathroom.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, the NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

Recommendation

2. Boys Republic management develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short-term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

None of the children taking psychotropic medication have current court authorizations for their medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

- 3. Boys Republic management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews:

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 4. Boys Republic management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

Boys Republic

3493 Grand Ave., Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 628-1217

July 31, 2005

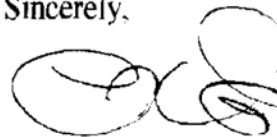
Dear Carla.

Consistent with your instruction pertaining to the group home monitoring report completed by the Auditor Controller's Office on June 21, 2005 for the Boys Republic – **Pomona Residence**, we have made the identified corrections and implemented a Corrective Action Plan as follows.

1. A thorough cleaning of the window blinds, deep fryer, stove/oven, and downstairs bathroom has been conducted. Residence staff will also regularly inspect for needed cleaning.
2. Needs and Services Plans have been augmented and are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time-limited with both long and short-term goals. Unit Supervisors are responsible for the implementing the changes with the Treatment Directors and Associate Director responsible for ensuring continuing adherence.
3. All students currently taking psychotropic medications have current court authorizations. Belinda's explanation of the protocol has been elaborated to all relevant staff and those authorizations will be maintained and monitored by the nursing staff. The Associate Director is responsible for ensuring adherence.
4. In addition, a structured photo album creation activity has been implemented on a rotational basis for all of the students. The Residence Director will ensure compliance.

We are grateful for the visit and express appreciation for the recommendations made. Belinda's demeanor is truly collaborative and we welcome her visit at any time. It is helpful to have an outsider walk through our facility and view things we perhaps fail to notice in our day-to-day work environment.

Sincerely,



Chris Burns
Associate Director



-Benjamin Disraeli